

REMARKS

1. Noted.
2. Noted.
3. Noted.

4, 5. Claims 21, 25 and 26 are not believed to be anticipated by Piazza '285 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Applicant takes issue with the Examiner's assertion that Piazza has "individual disposable transparent bags or 'covers". Specifically, the roll of bags of Piazza at col. 2, lines 16-18 that the containers 10 or bags "are adapted to be detached, one by one, by cutting along the dotted lines 12 when they are desired for use." Such cutting would seem to make such bag non-sterile.

Then at col. 2, lines 19-24, the containers 10 or bags "are initially sterilized and maintained in sterilized condition while the transverse seals are made so that the inside walls of the containers 10 are in sterilized condition when furnished to the user and are never exposed to outside air until the individual containers are detached for use." (emphasis added).

There is absolutely no mention that the roll of bags of Piazza is in any way sterilized so that the outer walls are sterile.

Applicant claims a "package of individual disposable sterile transparent covers for a keyboard" and as shown by the attached definitions on Dictionary.com and Merriam-Webster's Free Medical Dictionary, that "sterile" means "free from living organisms" and both cite "sterile syringe" for example, i.e., the entire object is sterile, not just the inner walls like Piazza. Also, see sterile covers from [www.Medical.siemens.com](http://www.Medical.siemens.com), attached hereto.

Piazza in col. 1, lines 56-67, not only discloses that quoted by the Examiner, but also sets forth that the containers obtained are for use as nursing bottles", which seem to be far afield from the intended use set forth in claims 21, 25 and 26. It is noted that the opening in a container or bag of Piazza is made by cutting along a short side of the bag, unlike that of applicant's claimed cover.

Applicant also takes issue with remainder of the rejection bridging pages 3 and 4, for reasons of record herein.

6, 7, 8. Claims 28 and 29 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Piazza. Contrary to the Examiner's statement, Piazza containers are formed from an extrusion machine in the form of a "tube" (see col. 2, lines 41-42), and thus this rejection would seem to be improper. Also, note remarks above.

9. Claims 32, 37, 41 and 42 are believed to be patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yanagisawa in view of Piazza.

Yanagisawa states in col. 11, lines 36-37, inter alia

"Otherwise than the structure shown in FIG. 10, the entire keyboard body 21 may be covered to be enclosed. (Further, as required, the cable 22 may be covered with the cover 34' or another cover.)"

There is no suggestion in Yanagisawa that either disclosed cover 34 or 34' is or may be an envelope, as only suggested by applicant and by the Examiner. From the reading of Yanagisawa, it would seem that two elastic covers would be used to cover the keyboard—one on the bottom and another on the top. Those are simply the only covers shown and described in Yanagisawa. Only by viewing applicant's invention by hindsight would one having ordinary skill in the art reconstruct Yanagisawa cover or covers into a single envelope covering the entire keyboard, as set forth in applicant's claims.

As to the shortcomings of Piazza, see remarks above.

There seems to be a leap of faith when the Examiner, at the top of page 7, states, "forming an envelope as recited." Again one viewing Yanagisawa would more than likely use two covers to enclose or cover the entire keyboard. Piazza just does not have or disclose a "long" top edge or "long" bottom edge or two "short" side edge portions, nor that the tube of Piazza is formed as an "envelope".

With respect to claim 37, neither Yanagisawa nor Piazza teach an "elongated opening" along the long top edge portion is not believed to "involve simply a matter of design choice" because of the unexpected result of being able to envelop the keyboard easier and to remove the contaminated envelope more readily for disposal while protecting the keyboard's sterility.

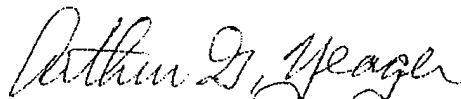
With respect to claims 41 and 42, Piazza does not include "sheet members" as well as other deficiencies noted above.

10. For the Examiner to consider applicant's arguments "merely speculation regarding how one of ordinary skill in the art might interpret...Yanagisawa beyond the general teaching" that "the entire keyboard body 21 may be covered to be enclosed" (col. 11, lines 36-37 of Yanagisawa), seems at odds with the specific showings and descriptions in Yanagisawa, i.e., applicant's arguments are believed to be less speculative than those of the Examiner who has the hindsight benefit of applicants' disclosure.

Allowance of all of the claims in this application is believed to be appropriate.

Any suggestions by the Examiner which may render any of the claims to be more clearly allowable over the prior art would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,



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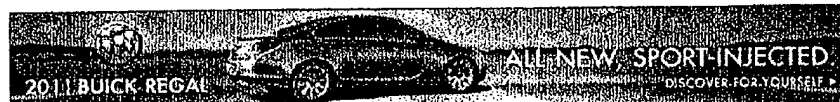
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**ster-ile** (ster-il or, especially Brit., -ahyl) [Show IPA](#)

##### —adjective

- free from living germs or microorganisms; aseptic: *sterile surgical instruments*.
- incapable of producing offspring; not producing offspring.
- barren; not producing vegetation: *sterile soil*.
- Botany**.
  - noting a plant in which reproductive structures fail to develop.
  - bearing no stamens or pistils.
- not productive of results, ideas, etc.; fruitless.

##### Origin:

1545-55; < L *sterilis* unfruitful

##### —Related forms

ster-ile-ly, *adverb*

ster-il-i-ty (stuh-rih-i-tee) [Show IPA](#), ster-ile-ness, *noun*

an-ti-ster-il-i-ty, *adjective*

half-sterile, *adjective*

non-ster-ile, *adjective*

non-ster-ile-ly, *adverb*

non-ster-il-i-ty, *noun*

un-ster-ile, *adjective*

**—Can be confused:** 1. *impetus*, *impotence*, sterility; 2. *impotence*, sterility, *sterilized*.

##### —Synonyms

- infecund, unfruitful.

##### —Antonyms

- fertile.

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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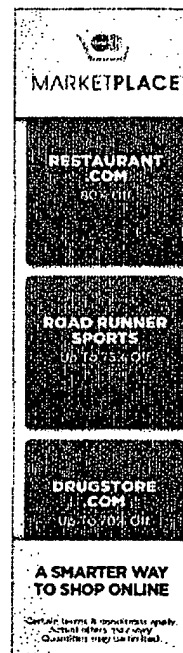
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## World English Dictionary

sterile ('sterail) ?

— *adj*

1. unable to produce offspring; infertile
2. free from living, esp pathogenic, microorganisms; aseptic
3. (of plants or their parts) not producing or bearing seeds, fruit, spores, stamens, or pistils
4. lacking inspiration or vitality; fruitless
5. ( *US* ) *economics* (of gold) not being used to support credit creation or an increased money supply

[C16: from Latin *sterilis* ]

'sterilely

— *adv*

sterility

— *n*

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 10th Edition  
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Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009  
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## Word Origin & History

sterile

1426, "barren" (implied in sterility), from M.Fr. *stérile* "not producing fruit," from L. *sterilis* "barren, unproductive," from PIE \*ster- "sterile, barren" originally "stiff, rigid" (cf. Gk. *steresthai* "be deprived of," *steira* "sterile," *stereos* "firm, solid, stiff, hard;" Skt. *starih* "a barren cow;" O.C.S. *sterica* "a barren cow;" Goth. *stairo* "barren;" O.N. *stirla* "a barren cow"). See [torpor](#). Originally in Eng. with ref. to soil; of females, from 1535. The sense of "sterilized" is first recorded 1877. Sterilize "destroy the fertility of" is from 1695 (in ref. to soil); of living things from 1828. Meaning "render free of microorganisms" is from 1878. Sterilization is from 1874.

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## Medical Dictionary

ster-ile definition

Pronunciation: /'ster-əl, chiefly British -ɪl/

Function: *adj*

- 1 : failing to produce or incapable of producing offspring *sterile hybrid* > compare **INFERTILE**
- 2 : free from living organisms and especially microorganisms *sterile syringe* > *sterile cyst*

ster-ile-ly Pronunciation: /-əl-(l)ē/

Function: *adv*

ste-ri-li-ty Pronunciation: /stə-'rɪl-ɪ-tē/

Function: *n*

pl -ties ;

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sterile ster-ile (stēr'əl, -ɪl')

*adj.*

1. Not producing or incapable of producing offspring.

2. Free from all live bacteria or other microorganisms and their spores.

**ster'ile-ness** or **ster-il'i-ty** (stə-rīl-tē) *n.*

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### Science Dictionary

**sterile** (stēr'ēl, stēr'īl) [Pronunciation Key](#)

1. Not able to produce offspring, seeds, or fruit; unable to reproduce.
2. Free from disease-causing microorganisms.

**sterility** *noun* (stə-rīl-tē)

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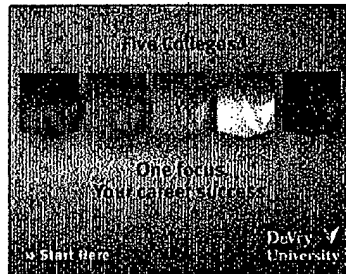
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"A bizarre sensation pervades a relationship of pretense..."  
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### Main Entry: ster-ile

Pronunciation: \ˈster-əl, chiefly British -ˌɪl\

Function: adjective

- 1 : failing to produce or incapable of producing offspring <a sterile hybrid>—compare **INFERTILE**  
2 : free from living organisms and especially microorganisms <a sterile syringe> <a sterile cyst>  
—sterile-ly \-əl-(l)ē\ adverb  
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